

## **Specimen Requirements for DNA/RNA Studies**

- Specimen Type: Whole blood collected in BD vacutainer tubes
- Lavender top tube with K<sub>2</sub>EDTA (plastic)
- Inversions: 6 times
- Draw Volume: 5-10 ml (For viral RNA assays by RT-qPCR, 10ml sample is preferred)

### **Storage Temperature:**

- Within a week: Refrigerated (2°C to 8°C)
- Beyond a week: Frozen (-20°C)

### **Shipping Conditions:**

- Place the collection tube upright
- Specimen container caps and lids should be properly tightened to prevent leakage
- Collect the specimen in recommended containers and transfer to a leak proof plastic specimen transport bag
- Frozen specimens must be shipped in insulated containers on a minimum of 5 lbs. of dry ice. Specimens must remain frozen during transport.

### **Sample Rejection Criteria**

- Specimens collected with incorrect anticoagulant (e.g. heparinised blood is NOT an acceptable sample type)
- Insufficient quantity received or incomplete filling of the tubes
- Samples received at ambient temperature beyond stability for the assay
- Thawed specimens
- Haemolysis or lipemia (due to increased number of inversions or improper specimen collection)
- Improperly labelled specimens